

Message Text

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AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2139

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, PINT CH

SUBJECT: VISIT OF THE STEROID CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY DELEGATION

1. SUMMARY. THE VISIT OF THE STEROID CHEMISTRY DELEGATION TO PEKING WAS CONCLUDED SMOOTHLY, GENERALLY UNAFFECTED BY THE POLITICAL ACTIVITY AT THE CENTER. CHOU PEI-YUAN'S OCT 15 BANQUET TOAST TO TUTWKARJ, HOWEVER, MAY REFLECT SOME CHANGE IN THE CHINESE PUBLIC POSITION ON SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES. THE DELEGATION DEPARTED PEKING OCT 16 FOR TWO WEEKS OF TRAVEL TO KWEILIN, CANTON AND SHANGHAI. END SUMMARY.

2. THE OCT 10 TO OCT 16 PEKING VISIT OF THE STEROID CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY DELEGATION TOOK ITS COURSE SMOOTHLY, GENERALLY UNAFFECTED BY THE POLITICAL ACTIVITY AT THE CENTER. VISITS TO THE INSTITUTES OF ZOOLOGY, MICROBIOLOGY AND PHARMACOLOGY AND THE PEKING MATERINITY HOSPITAL WENT WELL AND REPORTEDLY WERE CHARACTERIZED BY A MINIMUM OF POLITICAL COMMENT. THE GROUP'S SATISFACTION WITH THEIR PROGRAM IN PEKING WAS MARRED ONLY BY THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THEIR HOSTS TO ALLOW THE GROUP TO DIVIDE INTO TWO SECTIONS (THE CHEMISTS AND THE CLINICAL TRIALS SPECIALISTS) FOR INDEPENDENT DISCUSSIONS.

3. AS HAS BEEN THE CASE IN OTHER SCIENTIFIC FIELDS,
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PRC WORK IN STEROID CHEMISTRY, WHILE EARNING SUCH

PLAUDITS AS "COMPTEENT" AND "INGENIOUS" FROM THE DELEGATION, LAGS SIGNIFICANTLY BEHIND SIMILAR WORK IN THE U.S. IN PARTICULAR, THE U.S. DELEGATION WAS DISTURBED BY THE APPARENT ABSENCE OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL CREATIVITY AND FOR RESEARCH ON BEWIC THEORY. A LACK OF SOPHISTICATED LABORATORY EQUIPMENT WAS ANOTHER MINUS NOTED BY THE GROUP.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL ROUND OF SIGHTSEEING, THE DELEGATION'S STAY IN PEKING ALSO INCLUDED AN EXCHANGE OF BANQUETS AND A RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE ACTING CHIEF, ALL OF WHICH WERE ATTENDED BY CHOU PEI-YUAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE SCI AND TECH ASSOC. CHOU'S TOASTS TO THE DELEGATION SHOWED AN INTERESTING CHANGE FROM THE FIRST BANQUET ON OCT 12 TO THE RETURN BANQUET OCTOBER 15. THE FIRST TOAST FOLLOWED WHAT HAS BEEN THE STANDARD LINE OVER THE LAST YEAR, EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CLASS STRUGGLE AND THE CARRYING OUT OF THE CONTINUING REVOLUTION IN EDUCATION. IN THIS INSTANCE, OF COURSE, CHOU DESCRIBED THESE GOALS AS THE FULFILLMENT OF MAO'S HERITAGE. IN HIS SECOND TOAST, CHOU TOLD THE GROUP THAT "WHEREEVER YOU GO IN CHINA YOU WILL FIND THE PEOPLE UNITED CLOSELY BEHIND THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE HEADED BY HUA KUO-FENG IN A MIGHTY EFFORT TO MAKE CHINA A POWERFUL SOCIALIST COUNTRY." CHOU ALSO CITED THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING FROM SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE AS PART OF THIS EFFORT.

5. THE DELEGATION LEFT PEKING FOR KWEILIN ON OCT 16, WHERE THEY REMAIN UNTIL THEIR DEPARTURE FOR CANTON ON OCT 19. THE GROUP FLIES TO SHANGHAI ON OCT 21, LEAVING CHINA ON OCT 29.

6. DESPITE THE DISPUTE PROVOKED BY THE ASSIGNMENT OF LAMPTON AS CHINA SCHOLAR ESCORT FOR THE GROUP, HE WAS NOT CONSCIOUS OF SPECIAL ATTENTION ON THE PART OF HIS HOSTS NOR WAS HE ASKED TO FUNCTION IN HIS DESIGNATED CAPACITY AS INTERPRETER.

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7. IN A CONVERSATION WITH USLO OFFICER DURING THE VISIT, SCI AND TECH ASSOCIATION REP LI MING-TEH SAID THAT HIS OFFICE WAS NOW ENGAGED IN SELECTING THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL FORM THE PRC ASTRONOMY DELEGATION TO THE US. LI SAID HE HOPED THE GROUP COULD DEPART FOR THE US ON ABOUT NOV 10. DEPT MAY WISH TO PASS THIS INFO TO THE CSC STAFF.
DEAN

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